

BARNEY BIGLIN LOSES

A VALUABLE CONTRACT.

The Republican Leader Fails to
Secure the Custom House
Cartage Business.

It Is Worth About Three Hundred Thousand Dollars and the Lowest Bidder Is a Tammany Man.

Barney Biglin, the local republican leader, has been laid aside in favor of a democrat, and a two hundred and fifty thousand dollar Custom House contract which Barney had set his heart upon is to be given to a Tammany man by a republican ad-

This news leaked out last evening. It will create the biggest kind of a row in the republican camp.

Some three weeks ago, it will be remembered, Collector Erhardt opened bids for the cartage contract for this customs district. The contract is to

run for three days from February 23, and is supposed to be worth between \$300,000 and \$350,000, according to the estimates of experienced Custom House officials. Exact figures are not attainable, because no contractor has ever been willing to reveal just what the contract is worth.

The work to be done is the conveying to and from the Public Stores of every package of imported merchandise which has to be sent to the Appraiser's Department for examination. The law requires that the contract shall be given to the responsible bidder who will do the cartage at the lowest charges to the merchants and importers who are the consignees of the goods to be landed.

ENGLIN WANTED IT.

There were eight competitors, and each bid was

should be made known to manipulate the figures afterward. Among the bidders were Bernard Elgin, the local republican leader, and Thomas A. Briggs, the warehouseman, who is a democrat and who now holds the contract, partly because he got under a democratic administration and partly because his bid was the lowest.

Barney Elgin was particularly anxious to get the contract, and he had been in the habit of being in attendance. It is said, he has had his friends besorging the Collector in his behalf.

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican County Committee, and other influential republicans have called to see John E. Briggs, and have interceded for Barney, but to every one the Collector has said he should recommend the lowest responsible bidder.

A COMPLICATED QUESTION.

There are no less than five articles to be cast enumerated in the specifications that it is a complicated and intricate matter to compare all the bids and find out which makes the lowest average price.

To arrive at this result it is necessary to search the records of the Custom House to know how much of each article has been imported, and it is likely to be handled. This takes time, and the work of comparison has only just been completed by the collector, and is now being employed by Auditor Perry.

The result has been to show that the bids of Mr. Briggs are the lowest of the eight competitors. The bids of the other seven competitors are the figures of Mr. Briggs are from twelve to twenty

sector has to be reformed, recommended to the Acting Secretary of the Treasury that the contract be awarded to Mr. Brigue.

In making this recommendation that the present contractor be retained the Collector has simply obeyed the law. He has no doubt that he will be received with disgust by Biglin and his friends.

It is said that, even if Biglin's figures had been the lowest, it is not at all certain that the Collector would have awarded the contract to him; because, as the records of the Custom House show, when Biglin had this contract under Collector Merritt there were several other bidders who had better service, and Secretary Folger, after an investigation, advised him to be so well founded that he abrogated Biglin's contract.

On the other hand there are no complaints as to Brigue's administration, and it is admitted that he has carried out his duties very efficiently.

MR. BRIGUE'S ADVANTAGE

In making his offers for a renewal of his contract Mr. Brigue has shown that he has no real competitors. That his three years' experience has taught him the relative quantities of the various commodities which are imported, and that the advantages were to be carted, &c. He could, therefore, make estimates on the different sorts of merchandise with a great deal of accuracy, and the details which no outsider could possibly possess.

points" from Custom House employes.

Of course Collector Erhardt's recommendation is not final, it is only advisory. The Acting Secretary of the Treasury, or, perhaps, under present circumstances, with the President himself, for to that point the case has been referred, will be sure to appeal.

They will go to Washington at once and call President Harrison's attention to the fact that the colored man in question is a member of the Acting Secretary and that in the present deorganized and discontented condition of the republican party in the city it will be a dreadful mistake to give a \$200,000 premium to a democrat.

MEYER AND THE QUEER BOX.

HE THOUGHT IT CONTAINED A DRUG AND THAT A NEGRO INTENDED TO ROB HIM.

Samuel Meyer, proprietor of a cigar store at No. 156 West street, Newark, N. J., insisted Saturday that he was on Friday night the victim of an intended robbery that failed to materialize. He says he was alone in the store about nine o'clock when a young negro entered and asked for a certain brand of chewing tobacco which was not in stock. He offered him a small quantity of chewing snuff. While weighing it, Meyer says, he noticed that he was gradually becoming unconscious. Turning around he saw that the colored man had disappeared. "The fellow," Meyer says, "was who was off, and a peculiar odor" was coming from Mr. Meyer says he concluded that the negro intended to rob and perhaps kill him. With great effort, he says, he reached the window and with his fist smashed the glass. The cool night air came in and dispelled the drowsy feeling produced by the contents of the box. "I looked toward the negro the latter drew a revolver and with an oath exclaimed:—"If you say a word I'll put daylight through your head."

Then, with the weapon pointed at Mr. Meyer's head, he retreated toward the door and quickly throwing it open went down Springfield Avenue.

The noise of the breaking glass attracted a crowd of people, and Captain Glori, of the Fourth precinct, who happened to be passing, quickly made an investigation. No trace of the colored man or the mysterious box could be found.

Meyer was very weak from fright, and a physician called and the physician knew there was no drug that would work on the senses of a white man and not affect a colored man.

Meyer acknowledged that he was subject to fainting spells and the physician said that he thought the cigar dealer was seized with one of them when the negro was in the store, which so fright-